

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OES-06 EUR-12 /043 W  
-----130627Z 046286 /17

R 122215Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6019  
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINR, UR, FJ  
SUBJECT: SOVIET SHIP PULKOVSKIY MERIDIAN IN SUVA

REF: SUVA 0478

1. THERE WAS ADDITIONAL PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT OF  
PULKOVSKIY MERIDIAN IN FIJI TIMES OF APRIL 13.  
UNDER BOW TO STERN PHOTO OF SHIP, TIMES CARRIED  
ARTICLE TITLED "THE SOVIET BUILDUP", "WHY THE RUSSIANS  
ARE BECOMING REGULAR VISITORS".

2. ARTICLE READS AS FOLLOWS:

"A LOCAL SHIPPING AGENCY ATTRIBUTES THE DRAMATIC INCREASE  
IN THE NUMBER OF SOVIET SHIPS CALLING AT FIJI DURING THE  
PAST 12 MONTHS TO THE EFFICIENT SERVICES THEY GET HERE.  
"THE SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SEATRANS FIJI LTD.  
MR. LEO SMITH, SAID THAT AS AGENT FOR ALMOST 80 PER CENT  
OF THE SOVIET VESSELS CALLING HERE THIS WAS THE  
IMPRESSION HE HAD.

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"MR. SMITH WAS COMMENTING YESTERDAY ON THE ARRIVAL OF  
YET ANOTHER RUSSIAN VESSEL, THE MARINE AND FISHERIES  
RESEARCH VESSEL PULKOVSKIY MERIDIAN, WHICH CALLED AT  
THE WEEKEND AND WAS EXPECTED TO LEAVE SUVA LAST NIGHT.

"THE 5620-TON PULKOVSKIY MERIDIAN IS A PROTOTYPE  
VESSEL -- THE LATEST OF ITS KIND OF ALL THE SOPHISTICATED

RESEARCH SHIPS IN THE SOVIET FLEET.

"IT HAS JUST MADE HER MAIDEN VOYAGE TO SUVA AND WAS  
LIKELY TO MAKE FREQUENT CALLS IN FUTURE, ACCORDING TO  
CAPTAIN SHIKHANOV NIKOLAJ.

"MR. SMITH SAID THAT BEFORE MAKING FIJI THEIR REGULAR  
PORT OF CALL SOVIET SHIPS OFTEN CALLED AT SINGAPORE FOR  
REFUEL AND TAKE ON PROVISIONS.

"HE SAID THAT WHEN SEATRANS FIJI LTD WAS FORMED IN  
1973 THEY GRADUALLY BUILT UP THEIR CONTACTS WITH RUSSIAN  
BOATS MAINLY THROUGH MR. MORRIS BING, A DIRECTOR AND  
SHIPPING MANAGER.

"MR. SMITH SAID MR. BING'S PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH  
BURNS PHILP'S SHIPPING DEPARTMENT HELPED A GREAT DEAL.

"MR. BING SAID THAT IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS ABOUT 50 RUSSIAN  
SHIPS HAD CALLED AT FIJI.

"THEY RANGED FROM TRAWLERS AND CARGO SHIPS TO CRUISE  
SHIPS AND RESEARCH VESSELS.

"THIS IS AN INCREASE OF 33 PERCENT COMPARED WITH THE  
NUMBER THAT CALLED IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS," MR. BING  
SAID.

"MOST OF THE SHIPS THAT WE CONTROL CALL IN FIJI  
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FOR FUEL AND FOOD SUPPLIES AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE THE CREW  
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SHOPPING AND TOUR EXCURSION," SAID MR. SMITH.

"CAPTAIN NIKOLAJ WAS CAUTIOUS ABOUT ANSWERING QUESTIONS  
WHEN INTERVIEWED BY THE FIJI TIMES YESTERDAY.

"HE PREFERRED TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THROUGH MR. BING  
AND MR. SMITH.

"MR. SMITH SAID: "THERE ARE A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT  
RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC. IN SOME CIRCLES THEY  
HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF SPYING RATHER THAN CARRYING OUT  
RESEARCH WORK."

"CAPTAIN NIKOLAJ SAID THE SHIP WAS MERELY A RESEARCH  
VESSEL AND 50 SCIENTISTS WERE ON BOARD TO CONDUCT STUDIES  
ON FISH MIGRATION, BEHAVIOUR, FEEDING PATTERN AND MARINE  
CONDITION IN THE PACIFIC.

"THE VESSEL IS TWO YEARS OLD AND WAS BUILT IN THE  
RED SEA.

"IT HAS 91 PEOPLE ON BOARD INCLUDING THE SCIENTISTS, THE  
OFFICERS AND CREW."  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PULKOVSKIY MERIDIAN R/V, PORT CALLS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SUVA00479  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770127-0752  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2827747  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET SHIP PULKOVSKIY MERIDIAN IN SUVA  
**TAGS:** PINR, SOPN, EWWT, UR, FJ  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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